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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [ABLD](#) [PREL](#) [GR](#)
SUBJECT: GREECE FACES NEW ROUND OF BOMBINGS

REF: ATHENS 349; ATHENS 318

¶1. (SBU) In a sign of the continuing escalation of activity by domestic terrorist and anarchist groups (reftels), a series of firebombings and other violent attacks occurred in Athens and Thessaloniki March 27-31. In the most coordinated attack, gas canister bombs exploded at ten banks and luxury automobile dealerships in and near Athens within a span of fifteen minutes in the early morning of March 31. A previously unknown group called Detachments for Spreading Metropolitan Violence claimed responsibility and said the attacks were in support of Yorgos Voutsis, the twenty-four-year-old son of a member of the leftist SYN/SYRIZA party's Political Council. The younger Voutsis is due in court April 1 on charges of armed bank robbery, after he was arrested with two pistols and a hand grenade following the robbery of a bank in the Gyzi section of Athens. On the preceding evening, March 30, gas canister bombs exploded at several Thessaloniki offices of current and former MPs, including those of Deputy Interior Minister Gioulekas and Deputy Culture Minister for Sports Ioannides. (In the case of Ioannides, the bomb failed to go off.) One bomb exploded outside the Democratic Renaissance Party office while its leader Stelios Papathelemis was inside meeting with party officials. They were not harmed.